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Editorial Notes and Comment



THERE is a strong and continued fight in some quarters to keep the Bible out of the public schools. We sometimes wonder whether there is as strong a fight made on the part of Christians to put it into these schools. We do not advocate the teaching of the Bible in the public schools. But we believe it ought to be read in them every day, and portions of it committed to memory by the pupils. This would accomplish two results. It would emphasize the importance of the Bible as the standard of morality, and there can be no civilization that has no divine standard by which morals are to be judged. And the mere reading and committing to memory passages of the Scripture will carry much of their teaching to the hearts of the pupils. For the great truths of the Bible can be grasped by almost any mind that reads God's word. And we have God's promise: "My word shall not return unto me void; but it shall accomplish that which I please, and prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

A FIGHT that ought to be made by Christians is to keep out of the public schools all books that attack the Bible or the great facts of revelation. Such attacks are rare in this day coming from the great scientific minds, but there are smaller men who still continue to find pleasure in attacking the revelation of God, either directly or indirectly. The books that teach that there is a connecting link between the monkey and man are in reality attacking God's account of the creation. He who intimates that miracles are not possible is attacking the divinity of Jesus Christ. Christian parents should examine carefully the books used by the children. If they are found to be teaching doctrines which are contrary to the teaching of God's word, effort should be made at once to induce the officials, or, if necessary, to force them to discard them.

HOME MISSIONS to most people means the carrying of the gospel to the thinly settled portions of our territory or to the border country or to the poorer sections of our city. That was largely true in the South a generation ago. But now another great and growing element has been introduced into that branch of the Church's work. Today the foreigner is in all parts of the land. They have come by the millions from Europe and Asia, by the hundreds of thousands from Cuba and Mexico. Today our Home Mission Committee is preaching the gospel through its missionaries in more languages in this country than our Foreign Mission Committee is in foreign lands. Fourteen languages are used by its missionaries in carrying the gospel to the new comers to our land who cannot understand English.

LITERATURE prepared for Sunday-schools should have the greatest care given to it. An error slipping into a publication that is

read only by well-informed grown people may not do much harm. But when given to the Sunday-school scholar, or even to the average Sunday-school teacher, in the official publications of the Church, great harm is likely to be done. We had some illustrations of this in some of our own Sunday-school literature recently. Now comes the statement that the same thing has been true of the publications of the Northern Church. Those who know the editors of our own publications or those of the Northern Church, know that they would not willingly propagate any error, and in each case the statement has been made that the matter criticised got into the paper without the editors intending that it should be done. This just shows the need of the utmost care in scrutinizing all the mental and spiritual food given to the children of the Church. The mind once poisoned is not easily cured.

A LITTLE MORE.

A little more tired at close of day;
A little anxious to have our way;
A little less ready to scold and blime;
A little more care for a brother's name;
And so we are nearing the journey's end,
Where Time and Eternity meet and blend.

A little less care for bonds and gold;
A little more zest in the days of old;
A broader view and saner mind.
And a little more love for all mankind;
A little more careful of what we say;
And so we are faring a-down the way.

A little more love for the friends of youth;
A little less zeal for established truth;
A little more charity in our views;
A little less thirst for the daily news;
And so we are folding our tents away,
And passing in silence at close of day.

A little more leisure to sit and dream;
A little more real the things unseen;
A little bit nearer to those ahead,
With visions of those long-lived and dead;
And so we are going where all must go—
To a place the live may never know.

A little more laughter; a little more tears;
And we shall have told our increasing years,
The book is closed, and the prayers are said,
And we are a part of a countless dead,
Thrice happy, then, if some soul can say:
"I live because he has passed my way."

THE personnel of the General Assembly is a matter of interest. There were pastors of large city churches, pastors of small city churches, pastors of village and country churches, professors in seminaries and missionaries. Ruling elders were there from all kinds of churches and from many walks in life. There were lawyers, judges, college professors, active business men, sturdy farmers—all consecrated men. There were natives of the South, some who had come from the North, others from Canada and Bonnie Scotland. There was a Mexico-American, a full-blooded Chickasaw Indian and some negroes. In the midst of all this variety there was one thought, one desire, one aim, and that was how best to do the Lord's work.

IN a city we know there is a juvenile court before which all children charged with an offence, and all children who have to be taken away from their parents, are brought for trial. In many cases there is no parent to take care of them, or the parents are not considered worthy to have charge of them. They must be committed to the care of some one else. The State in which this city is located has no institution of its own to which to commit them. The Protestant orphans' homes are all filled to overflowing. We are told that a Roman Catholic priest attends practically every session of this court. When the question is raised as to what shall be done with the child, he is always ready to offer a place for it. We are told that he gets most of these children. The question arises, what right has the State to commit one of its wards to any institution other than its own, and especially what right has it to commit one to an institution over which it has no control and which it cannot even investigate or inspect, and which is oftentimes in another State? Christian reader, is this the condition in your city or State? Look and see. If it is, are you going to let this state of affairs continue?

BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS are gifts of God. What more appropriate use of them than to beautify the house of God for the times of public worship? We do not believe that much money should be spent for this purpose. But there are always lovers of flowers who will gladly do this work out of love for it and the desire to serve God. A good illustration of this was shown at the meeting of the General Assembly in Orlando. Each day the pulpit was beautifully decorated with growing plants and cut flowers, and other plants were placed in other parts of the church. We learned that this was the loving work of a young lady in the congregation, who makes it her duty and pleasure to see that flowers are provided each Sunday. We are told that she looks about from time to time to find who can give or lend flowers for this purpose. The result is that the house of God is made much more attractive than it would otherwise be. We believe there are those in every church who will gladly do this work. They will find pleasure in it and will give pleasure to all who attend the services.

In all your life, have high and noble aims, you may not reach your ideal, but you can live towards it, and so bless the world.

First of all to thine own self be true, for then it follows as the night the day, thou canst not be false to any man.

There are two personalities: The personality of God and the personality of man; these personalities in contact are prayer.